



# California State Parks

## Quick Facts



### Park People

#### California State Parks Staffing

- California State Parks is authorized 1,816 permanent positions to administer, protect, operate and maintain the state park system. Staff perform the following functions:
  - Lifeguards
  - Resource protection/interpretation
  - Rangers
  - Planning, design & development
  - Maintenance
  - Administration & support
- In addition to the permanent positions, approximately 729 seasonal employees are hired annually. These employees supplement the permanent work force in functions such as maintenance, lifeguarding, interpretation and visitor services.

#### Lifeguards and Rangers

- In 2007, State Park Rangers and Lifeguards:
  - Rescued 12,243 persons
  - Provided medical aid to 13,555 injured persons
  - Issued 18,105 citations
  - Arrested 1,511 persons
- State Park Ranger and Lifeguard duties also include:
  - patrolling (with vehicles, boats, motorcycles, fire trucks, patrol dogs, horses, bicycles, ATV, one sand rail, and one airplane)
  - conducting interpretive programs
  - resource protection

#### Maintenance Staff

- State Park Maintenance workers are responsible for keeping all State Park facilities safe and open for public use. More specifically, the skills they utilize are:
  - Road and trail maintenance
  - Water treatment
  - Plumbing
  - Housekeeping
  - Electrical
  - Litter and trash pickup
  - Carpentry
  - Landscape work
- The maintenance staff utilizes:
  - 716 maintenance vehicles
  - 37 boats
  - 252 tractors
  - 22 forklifts

#### Volunteers and Cooperating Associations

- 15,411 volunteers contributed 984,538 hours to the department in 2007/08. Volunteers staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, give interpretive programs, present special events and do much, much more to share their love of the parks with the visiting public.
- 84 cooperating associations, 501 (c) 3 non profit organizations that raise funds and advocate for state park units, have over 27,000 members and actively support park units throughout the state. Cooperating associations provide support for visitor centers and undertake fund raising to



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further the interpretive and educational programs in the parks they serve. Hundreds of special events and thousands of individual interpretive programs reaching hundreds of thousands of visitors would not be possible without their support.

#### Commissions

- The State Park and Recreation Commission has specific authorities and responsibilities defined in California law, including:
  - Approval of general plans for units of the State Park System
  - Classifying units of the System
  - Approval of concession agreements that: exceed \$500,000; are for more than 20 years; or that include the sale of alcoholic beverages.
  - Establishing general policies for the guidance of the Director of State Parks in the administration, protection and development of the System
  - Recommending to the Director a comprehensive recreation policy for the state
- The Commission's nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission is separate from the Park and Recreation Commission and consists of nine members, five of whom shall be selected by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation, two of whom shall be selected by the Senate Committee on Rules, and two of whom shall be selected by the Speaker of the Assembly. The Commission appointments are primarily advisory in

nature, although they approve General Plans for the SVRAs and provide a forum for public input.

- The State Historical Resources Commission is a nine-member state review board appointed by the Governor, with responsibilities for the identification, registration and preservation of California's cultural heritage. California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation serves as staff to the Historical Resources Commission.
- The mission of the Commission and California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation, in partnership with the people of California, is to preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter of public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social and environmental benefits will be maintained and enrich the lives of present and future generations.
- The Commission reviews applications for listing historic and archaeological resources on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, and the California Historical Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest registration programs.

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